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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 003798

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Powell thanks Gul - Aksam
Powell sends letter of appreciation to Gul - Milliyet
Hamas leader escapes seven missiles - Aksam
White House angered by killing attempt by Israel - Vatan
U.S. insists on Annan plan for Cyprus - Turkiye
TGS tough on Athens: Don't provoke us - Hurriyet
Athens heating up the Aegean - Milliyet
Armenian Diaspora's insurance trick - Hurriyet
NATO plans to carry Naples base to Izmir - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS
U.S. shapes new regimes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine - Cumhuriyet
UK disagrees with U.S. on Iran - Cumhuriyet
Missiles hit road map - Radikal
Rantisi vows to continue fighting - Yeni Safak
U.S. tells EU to support GOT - Zaman
Bin Hussein, a 'king' in Baghdad - Radikal
AP: 3,420 civilian casualties in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Egypt imposes visa on Turkish visitors - Yeni Safak

FINANCIAL JOURNALS
Central Bank foresees 25 percent inflation in 2003 - Dunya
Italian investors to Turkey in Fall - Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

Powell letter to Gul: Secretary Powell has written a letter to Foreign Minister Gul, praising him for calling on the Islamic world to move toward democracy, transparency and human rights at the Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Tehran last month. Dailies regard the 'warm' letter by Powell as an indication of easing tensions in U.S.-Turkey relations.

Armenians might demand compensation from Turkey: The Assembly of Turkish-American Associations (ATAA) said that some insurance policies given to Armenians during the Ottoman period are currently being held by American and French insurance companies, "Hurriyet" reports. The Governor of California, Gray Davis, has announced that he believes the papers are still effective, and ATAA warns that Turkey might be obliged to pay billions of dollars to Armenians.

U.S. urges the EU to back Turkey: U.S. Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas Weston said at meetings with EU officials Verheugen and Solana in Brussels on Tuesday that the EU should extend support to the Turkish government's reform efforts. Weston also voiced support for the EU financial aid package for Turkish Cypriots, and urged Ankara to exert pressure on Denktas to continue with the UN-sponsored peace plan.

Iraqi business delegation in SE Turkey: Mosul's Turkmen deputy governor Ibrahim Arafat, accompanied by a 40-strong

delegation of Iraqi businessmen, paid a business visit to Turkey's southeastern border town of Sirnak. The Iraqi delegation conveyed to Turkish officials and businessmen a message of goodwill and cooperation from Mosul's Arab governor, who has urged Turks to pursue increased levels of bilateral trade.

TGS rejects 'harassment' allegation: Dailies cite Greek press reports claiming a vast increase in Turkish military jets' violation of Greek airspace. The Greek defense minister reportedly complained that dialogue with Turkish politicians has produced no results because political control in Turkey remains in the hands of the military. A TGS statement said on Tuesday that a military jet passing a passenger plane at a ten kilometer distance cannot be defined as harassment. Dailies speculate that Athens is playing a game to ensure that the Aegean dispute is carried to the EU agenda.

EDITORIAL OPINION:
Middle East/US policy in the post war Iraq

"Where do we stand on the Pax Americana?" Yilmaz Oztuna warned in the mass appeal-conservative Turkiye (6/11): "Sometimes it is very hard for nations to comprehend the realities of international politics, even though these realities present themselves very clearly. The 'Pax Americana' is a reality of this century that will continue to increase in importance because it has not yet been concluded. Take Syria, for example, which used to be strongly anti-American. Today, however, the Damascus regime has completely changed its tune. . Eventually, both Saudi Arabia and Syria will bow to US policies without the need for a war. There will inevitably be, however, a military operation against Iran. Yet Iran too will eventually reconcile with the US. After Iran, the US focus will be on the Asian continent in an effort to expand the Pax Americana. It is worrying to see that many in Turkey keep their heads under the sand and remain blind to world realities."

"Yet another test for US-Turkey relations" Cuneyt Ulsever stated in mass appeal Hurriyet (6/11): "Turkish-American relations are on the eve of another test. The US will give Turkey a litmus test, especially on Iran, Syria, and the Israel-Palestinian dispute in connection with the American plan to reshape the Middle East region. . In the US view, Iran and Syria have anti-American regimes that incite terrorism. There is still a chance to change both regimes without the need for a military operation. A new order for the Middle East requires a lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue. . Thus the visit of Undersecretary Ziyal to Washington will take place at a very critical time, especially for the future of Turkish-American relations. The US is looking for a clear and precise stance from Turkey with regard to Iran and Syria. . Turkey failed to pass the credibility test before, and it remains to be seen what the result will be this time."

PEARSON